



POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Office of the Chairman

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Tommy Tuberville  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tuberville:

Thank you for contacting the Postal Regulatory Commission and filing official comments for Docket A2021-1, regarding the appeal to the proposed closing of the Spanish Fort Community Post Office. I read your letter with great interest and understand your concerns.

First, as background, it may be helpful to know that the Commission has exercised regulatory oversight over the U.S. Postal Service since its creation by the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, with expanded regulatory responsibilities under the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. However, as regulator, the Commission generally is not involved with the day-to-day operational decisions of the U.S. Postal Service. For example, the Commission does not generally have authority over contractual decisions such as the terms and conditions, let alone the contract itself, between the Postal Service and its contractor operated facilities. Our role is to ensure that products and services comply with statutory requirements as authorized by Title 39 of the United States Code, and Title 39 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

It is important to the Commission that we hear from all interested parties on this and other docketed matters. The Commission's appellate responsibility is to provide a forum for customers to seek review of Postal Service determinations to close post offices and to ensure that the Postal Service adheres to processes prescribed by law. The Commission's authority is limited to affirming or remanding the Postal Service's determination, and the law (section 404(d)(5) of title 39, U.S. code) does not authorize the Commission to modify the Postal Service's determination by substituting its judgment for that of the Postal Service. However, I assure you that as prescribed by law, we carefully review the Postal Service administrative record in every post office appeals case that is before us and that is no different here.


Katrina Martinez has been appointed as the public representative in this case. As the public representative, who is a designated officer of the Commission, Ms. Martinez represents the interests of the general public in this proceeding. Should your staff and/or your constituents have any continued questions on this case, they are welcomed to contact Ms. Martinez at 202-789-6871. Communication with Commission decision-making staff on this issue is restricted by the Commission's ex parte rules. 39 CFR 3012, et seq.

Please be assured that we understand your concerns and our goal is to not only promote a robust universal mail system through objective, accurate, and timely regulatory analyses and decisions, but to objectively monitor the external and internal Postal environments while anticipating changes that will enhance the agility of our nation's mail system. Consistent with the Commission's Strategic Goals, one of the Commission's focus areas remains working diligently with Congress and Postal stakeholders in support of a dynamic postal system that remains viable and relevant in meeting the needs of every community in America.

Once again, thank you for contacting us. If you have any questions or I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Taub', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert G. Taub, Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission